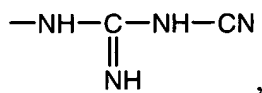


In the Claims:

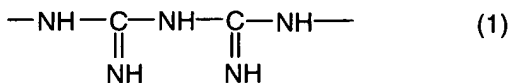
The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of the claims in this application:

1. (Currently Amended) An air-filter for a circulating and/or recirculating air system comprising a filter medium containing a microbiologically effective amount of a polymeric biguanide or salt thereof, wherein said polymeric biguanide is terminated by a functional group selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbyl, substituted hydrocarbyl, amine, and a cyanoguanidine group,



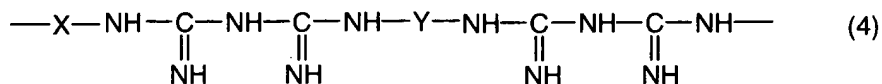
wherein said substituted hydrocarbyl is aryloxy, alkyloxy, acyl, acyloxy, or nitrile.

2. (Previously presented) An air-filter as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polymeric biguanide contains at least two biguanide units of the Formula (1):



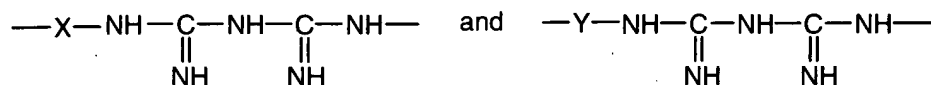
which are linked by a bridging group which contains at least one methylene group.

3. (Previously presented) An air-filter as claimed in claim 1 wherein the polymeric biguanide is a mixture of linear polymeric biguanides having a recurring polymer chain represented by Formula (4):



wherein X and Y represent bridging groups in which together the total number of carbon atoms directly interposed between pairs of nitrogen atoms linked by X and Y is more than 9 and less than 17.

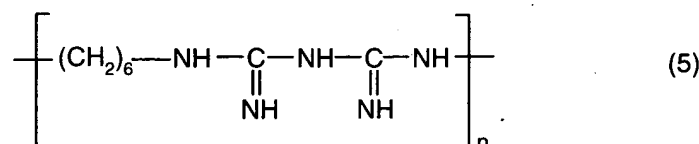
4. (Original) An air-filter as claimed in claim 3 which is a mixture of polymers wherein the number of individual biguanide units of formulae:



is, together, from 3 to about 80.

5. (Previously presented) An air-filter as claimed in claim 3 wherein the polymeric biguanide is poly(hexamethylene biguanide) in which X and Y are both $\text{---(CH}_2\text{)}_6\text{---}$.

6. (Previously presented) An air-filter as claimed in claim 1 wherein the polymeric biguanide is a mixture of polymers of the Formula (5):



wherein n is from 4 to 40.

7. (Previously presented) An air-filter as claimed in claim 1 wherein the polymeric biguanide is in the form of a hydrochloride salt.

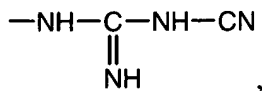
8. (Previously presented) An air-filter as claimed in claim 1 wherein the filter medium is made from a natural polymer or synthetic plastics material.

9. (Original) An air-filter as claimed in claim 8 wherein the natural polymer is cellulose.

10. (Previously presented) An air-filter as claimed in claim 1 wherein the amount of polymeric biguanide contained on the filter medium is from 0.0001% to 10% based on the weight of the filter medium.

11. (Original) A air-filter according to claim 1 further comprising an odour control agent.

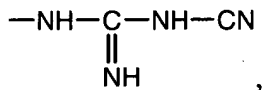
12. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing odours and/or air-borne micro-organisms in circulating and/or recirculated air which comprises passing air through a filter medium containing a polymeric biguanide or salt thereof, wherein said polymeric biguanide is terminated by a functional group selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbyl, substituted hydrocarbyl, amine, and a cyanoguanidine group.



wherein said substituted hydrocarbyl is aryloxy, alkyloxy, acyl, acyloxy, or nitrile.

13. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 12 wherein the air has a relative humidity between 20% and 80%.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for protecting a filter medium of a circulating and/or recirculating air system against microbial degradation which comprises incorporating in, or on, the medium a microbiologically effective amount of a polymeric biguanide or salt thereof, wherein said polymeric biguanide is terminated by a functional group selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbyl, substituted hydrocarbyl, amine, and a cyanoguanidine group.



wherein said substituted hydrocarbyl is aryloxy, alkyloxy, acyl, acyloxy, or nitrile.

15. (New) An air-filter for a circulating and/or recirculating air system comprising a filter medium containing a microbiologically effective amount of a polymeric biguanide in a free base form.

16. (New) A method of reducing odours and/or air-borne micro-organisms in circulating and/or recirculated air which comprises passing air through a filter medium containing a polymeric biguanide in a free base form.

17. (New) A method for protecting a filter medium of a circulating and/or recirculating air system against microbial degradation which comprises incorporating in, or on, the medium a microbiologically effective amount of a polymeric biguanide in a free base form.